[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
Collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 36: Letters 351-360

[Front of Letter 351]
Lucas, G.A., Paris, June 28/74
(To W.T. Walters)
List of paintings purchased in Paris. Has forwarded photographs of the paintings. They will leave on the Berlin to sail July 4.

[Letter 351]

Paris, June 28th 1874
W.T. Walters, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington

Dear Sir

During the French Exhibition of paintings, which closed on the 21st inst. I have purchased according to your instructions, the following framed oil paintings.

Priou - Une famille de Satyres 6,500
Leroux - La Vestale TUCCIA 10,000
Saint-Pierre - NEDJMA - l'odalisque 3,000
Motte - Le Cheval de [Svoie?] 3,000
Bail - Le dimanche en Auvergne 1,500
[Loustaunair - Le fiene pechens?] 1,000
and in addition from [Colletta?], [Jeune Unenchant Savoyard?], unframed for 800f - ([nwl?] exposed in this exhibition) Frame for same 118f [inserted here is 918 / 25.918 francs]

I have already forwarded you a photograph of the Paiou, and now enclose photographs of the remainder. The picture by Paiou received a first & the one of Leroux, a second class gold medal.

I also enclose copy of invoice of 2 cases. These cases Nos. 15 & 16 were forwarded from Paris the 25th June to leave on the Baltimore Steamer Berlin, sailing on the 4th July, as usual without insurance.

[Front of Letter 352]
Lherbette Kane & Co., Havre, July 3, 1874
Recvd July 22/74
Encloses Bill of Lading of two cases, per Steamer "Berlin", charges etc. Note, Bill of Lading sent to Mr. Walters July 22/74.

[Letter 352]

[Lettercard enclosed per "Berlin" via Southampton, addressed to A. Hyde Esq.]
[Lherbette Kane & Co. Bill of Lading enclosed]

[Front of Letter 353]
Vernam, R., New York, July 13/74
July 15 18.
Offering portrait of "Washington in his youth" by Leutze.
Ansd. July 18/74 Declined

[Letter 353]

[Letterhead of Exchange Buildings. Office of Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw Railway Co.]
New York, July 13, 1874

Mr. Corcoran Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have a picture painted by "Leutze" of Washington in his youth.

It is about 4 ft by 6 feet 6 inches & is pronounced a fine painting. It was formerly the property of the late Edioun Crosswell of Albany.

I would sell it quite low & if you see fit I would like to have you commission some friend of yours here to look at it.

Yours truly,
R. Vernam
Address as above

[Front of Letter 354]
Walters W.T., Balt., July 16./74
July 17/74
Has received papers for Custom House. ([SM?] “Berlin”). With regard to shade of Green for walls. Encloses duplicate Invoice of Pictures, also copy of a letter speaking of the pictures purchased.

[Letter 354]

Copy

In the Salon this year as a rule the largest things [illegible] the best and your friend Mr. Lucas has secured for the Corcoran some of the very best of these - for example the “une famille Satyres” by Priou and it seems ridiculous to think that so able a work, and so large, and on which so much knowledge + study has been expended, and which when the artist becomes famous (as he certainly will if he lives) was bought for much less than a 3 foot landscape by Church or Gifford would cost! For the money Mr. Lucas has expended he gets you a lot of things which will not only be a great accession to your collection - and perhaps will be considered more desirable than the big names previously acquired.

Paris 27th June 74

[Enclosed copy of letter speaking of pictures purchased]
Balto 16th July 74

Mr. W. MacLeod

Dear Sir

I have your letter enclosing matters for Custom House which I have attended to.

There is a shade of Green which does well as a contrast to marble or plaster (white) but there are many shades which are dreadful and this applies in a much greater degree to this color than to maroon and others which you have adopted - I am not prepared to say I would take the responsibility of advising the right green - for to get the right shade is difficult.

Mr. Riggs will hand you papers + photographs I sent him from Mr. Lucas - I think his selections are going to prove of great interest.

Your friend in [illegible]
W.T. Walters

I enclosed a duplicate invoice Mr. Lucas sent - all other papers I sent Mr. Riggs. I have been absent from home some days - How do you like the [Schreyer?]?

[Enclosure for letter 354 is located after letter 355. It is recognized as out of order. This is how the original physically appears in the folder.]

[Front of Letter 355]
Todd, Wm B., July 16, 1874
Agreement to paint the courts or wells of the Corcoran Gallery of Art
Signed in duplicate

[Letter Not Included In Sequence]

[Enclosure to Letter 354 inserted here. It is recognized as out of order. This is how the original physically appears in the folder.]
[Duplicate invoice of two cases pictures shipped to Corcoran Gallery of Art sent by Mr. Lucas]

[Letter 356]

(Copy)
Lewisville P.O. Fairfax Co. Va., July 18, 1874
To the Board of Trustees, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington

Gentlemen,

In the autumn of 1869, the Hon. D.W. Alvord of Greenfield Mass., retiring from active professional life, purchased a farm home in Fairfax Co. Va. and removed to it with his family.

Among his effects were the so-called Warren Pictures, portraits of General Joseph Warren and his wife, which he preferred not to take to his country home, and consequently left for safe keeping with Mr. Corcoran.

They remained for some time in the private gallery of the last-named gentleman in Washington, and were then transferred to the Gallery of which you are the custodians, and where the pictures now hang.

Mr. Alvord, the owner of the pictures, died at his Virginia farm two years ago, and under his will, I, his eldest son, was duly qualified as Executor and Trustee of his Estate. Altho' my father highly valued these Warren pictures as family portraits during his life, + refused at different times offers for their purchase, at prices much above their generally estimated value, from Lord Lyndhurst + others, I now find it necessary for the support and education of my father's minor children, to dispose of the pictures, as soon as can be done advantageously.

It is the preference of the family that they should pass into the possession of some public gallery or institution, and well satisfied that they should remain in their present quarters, the main object of my letter is to offer them to you. The price at which after proper consultation and solicited advice, it has been determined to fix upon them is two thousand dollars ($2000.) less than half what my father refused for them, more than once.

This of course understood that the portrait of Mrs. Warren has no value by itself, but is desirable as a companion piece.

While I deem it entirely unnecessary to submit herewith any of numerous letters to my father which establish this authenticity of the pictures, it may not be out of place to state as facts easily substantiated, that they are the only original portraits or other likenesses in existence of the persons represented, and that aside from the historic value which thus attaches to the portrait of Genl. Warren, it is one of the very last which Copley finished before his final departure from this country, and by competent judges has been pronounced one of the finest pieces of his work yet preserved.

At the time that your Board considers this proposition I have to request that in case you see fit to decline the offer you will pass an order authorizing your Curator to deliver these two pictures to me, as their legal custodian upon presenting proper evidence of that fact and giving in writing not less than thirty (30) days notice of my intention to remove them.

I may add that I have no desire whatever to change their place of deposite, but simply to prepare a means of obtaining possession without unnecessary delay, whenever that may seem to be necessary or desirable.

I to-day address Mr. Corcoran a letter of similar import.

Very respectfully your obt servant,
Henry E. Alvord
Executor & Trustee, Estate of D.W. Alvord deceased.
My P.O. address after Sept 1st will be Easthampton, Mass.

(Copy) Henry E. Alvord, Exr., July 18th, 1874

[Additional enclosed letter with Letter 356]
Lewisville P.O. Fairfax Co. Virginia, July 18, 1874

To the Board of Trustees, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington

Gentlemen: In the autumn of 1869, the Hon. D.W. Alvord of Greenfield, Mass'tts., retiring from active professional life, purchased a farm home in Fairfax County, Virginia and removed to it with his family.

Among his effects were the so-called "Warren Pictures", portraits of General Joseph Warren and his wife, which he preferred not to take to his country home, and consequently left for safe keeping with Mr. Corcoran.

They remained for some time in the private gallery of the last-named gentleman, in Washington, and were then transferred to the Gallery of which you are the custodians and where the pictures now hang. These facts familiar to Mr. Corcoran, are probably known to Mr. Hyde.

Mr. Alvord, the owner of the pictures, died at his Virginia farm two years ago, and, under his will, I, his eldest son, was duly qualified as Executor and Trustee of his Estate.

Altho' my father highly valued these Warren pictures as family portraits, during his life, and refused at different times offers for their purchase, at prices much above their generally estimated value, from Lord Lyndhurst and others. I now find it necessary for the support and education of my father's minor children, to dispose of the pictures as soon as can be done advantageously.

It is the preference of the family that they should pass into the possession of some public gallery or institution and well satisfied that they should remain in their present quarters, the main object of my letter is to offer them to you. The price at which, after proper consultation and solicited advice, it has been determined to fix upon them, is two thousand dollars ($2000), less than half what my father refused for them, more than once.

This of course understood that the portrait of Mrs. Warren has no value by itself, but is desirable as a companion piece.

While I deem it entirely unnecessary to submit herewith any of numerous letters to my father which establish this authenticity of the pictures, it may not be out of place to state, as facts easily substantiated, that they are the only original portraits or other likenesses in existence of the persons represented and that aside from the historic value which thus attaches to the portrait of Genl. Warren, it is one of the very last which Copley finished before his final departure

from this country and by competent judges has been pronounced one of the finest pieces of his work yet preserved.

At the time that your Board considers this proposition, I have to request that, in case you see fit to decline the offer, you will pass an order authorizing your Curator to deliver these two pictures to me, as their legal custodian, upon presenting proper evidence of that fact and giving in writing not less than thirty (30) days notice of my intention to remove them.

I may add that I have no desire whatever to change their place of deposit, but simply to prepare a means of obtaining possession, without unnecessary delay, whenever that may seem to be necessary or desirable.

I today address Mr. Corcoran a letter of similar purport.

Very respectfully your obt servant,
Henry E. Alvord
Executor & Trustee, Estate of D.W. Alvord deceased.
My P.O. address after Sept 1st will be Easthampton, Mass'tts.

[Back of Letter 356]
Alvord, Henry, E., Lewisville P.O. Fairfax Co. Va., July 18, 1874
July 21/74
With regard to the "Warren pictures". Wishes to dispose of them to the Gallery for $2000. or have permission to withdraw them upon giving 30 days notice.

[Front of Letter 357]
Walters, W.T., Balt., July 20/74
July 20/74
(Telegram)
"Send bill of lading or other papers of Steamer Berlin."

[Letter 357]

[Letter Blank of The Western Union Telegraph Company]
Balto., July 20 1874

Mr. Hyde
Send bill of lading or other papers of Steamer Berlin.
W.T. Walters
[8 paid on?]

[Front of Letter 358]
Kirk, J.E., June 23, 1874
Estimate for painting walls of Courts. Paint - $765.00 Wash - $445.00

[Letter 358]

Washington June 23, 1874
F.S. Barbarin Esq.

D Sir

I will Paint the Brick Walls of the two open Courts formed in the Building of the Corcoran Gallery of Art three good Coats of Paint for the sum of Seven Hundred and Sixty-five Dollars $765.00 of Such Color as you may select. Or I will was it two Coats of Such Color in the was as you may select for the Sum of Four Hundred + forty-five Dollars $445.00.

Respect Submitted
J.E. Kirk

[Front of Letter 359]
Todd, W.B., June 23, 1874
Estimate for painting Courts. Painting - $425.00 Wash - $270.00

[Letter 359]

Washington, D.C. June 23, 1874
Trustees of Corcoran's Art Gallery, Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen,

I propose to furnish material composed of proportionate parts of linseed-oil and lime-water, suitable for mixing with tints that are required, and paint (2 coats) brick-work of the two enclosures of Corcoran's Art Gallery Building, for the sum of Two hundred and seventy (270) Dollars. $270.00

Respectfully,
Wm. B. Todd

[Additional letter enclosed with letter 359]
Washington, D.C., June 25, 1874

Mr. Todd,

I have waited here until six this afternoon to see you. I wish you to furnish to me before tomorrow at noon (when the Board meets) your estimates for 3 coats of paint for the wells + also state what material you will use in the wash and what you will put on the wash/2 coats) for, as described in Dr. Hall's receipt.

Don't fail to let me know the above points before 12pm tomorrow.

Yours etc.
Wm. MacLeod

[Additional letter enclosed with letter 359]
June 25, 1874

Sir,

I propose to paint (3 coats oil paint) the wells for the sum of Four hundred and twenty five (425) Dollars.

The material used in the wash - described in my estimate here before handed to you - is lime water and linseed oil in equal parts, which can be mixed with any desired shade of color.

Wm. B. Todd

Wm. MacLeod Esq.

[Front of Letter 360]
Lucas G.A., Paris, July 11, 1874
(To W.T. Walters)
Encloses copy of Invoice of 22 Cases containing 2 paintings & 35 Casts. Has bought of W. Barye, copy of his Luxembourg bronze, and ordered one of his Centaur. Mr. Desgoffe is painting the picture ordered, (8000 frs) List of Cases enclosed.

[Enclosed is "Copy" of bill of 20 cases plaster casts from the Louvre]

[Letter 360]

Paris, 11th July 1874
Wm. T. Walters Trustee Corcoran Gallery of Art

Dear Sir,

I enclose you copy of invoice of 20 cases containing 35 plaster casts from the Louvre & 2 cases of the pictures by Priou & Leroux & their frames. These cases are to be shipped on the Steamer Leipzig sailing on the 11th July from Southampton. I also enclose copy of the bill of the Casts (2289f). The bill of packing the 20 cases casts amounted to 1156f. [For?] its settlement I have used all the money remaining on account "Corcoran Gallery of Art" at [Messrs.?] Holtingners & the former (2239f) I have been obliged to draw on your own private account.

I have bought of Mr. Barye a copy of his large Luxembourg bronze & have ordered one of the Centaur, the latter he is preparing to have cast & it will not be ready for delivery until the month of October. I have also noted a quantity of his small bronzes, but before sending I will await your answer to know about what amount to spend.

The pendant for the Luxembourg bronze, No 58 of the catalogue he could not furnish until the end of the year. In the collection already sent, No 59 is the reduction of the same. On receiving the Luxembourg bronze, you would be better able to judge, on examination, if it would be necessary to order No 58.

Mr. Desgoffe is now actively occupied in painting the picture for which he received the order according to your previous instructions, and hopes to finish it in about two months. He has applied to me to know if during its progress, I can advance him a certain sum, say one half of the price of his work. The price agreed upon was 8000f without the frame.

I am Yours most truly,
G.A. Lucas

[Enclosed is Invoice of 22 cases, plaster cases and oil pictures]